United Nations A/C.5/60/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 October 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 128
Scale of Assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 12 October 2005 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for your consideration, a letter dated 2 September 2005, the original of which was received on 12 October 2005, from Ibrahim Aboubacar Abani, Permanent Representative of the Niger to the United Nations, requesting that the letter be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 128 (see annex).

(*Signed*) Jan **Eliasson**

05-54427 (E) 131005

Annex

Letter dated 2 September 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Niger addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to address you, at my Government's request, for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, to be considered by the General Assembly.

My country's authorities are aware of their obligation to meet their financial responsibilities with the Organization and, in this regard, they have done everything possible to pay the full minimum amount necessary in order to have the right to vote. However, despite the efforts made, this has been impossible owing to the negative effect on our capacity to pay caused by the internal difficult situation undergone by the country over the last few years, inter alia, the coup d'état of April 1999 and the military transition of one year to set up a democratic regime.

After the free and democratic elections of December 1999, the new democratic regime is faced with having to pay more than 12 months of salaries arrears of civil servants, pensions and scholarships.

Now this problem has been partly solved and the Niger has signed a financial agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The Niger, one of the least developed countries, is currently going through its worst humanitarian crisis. Three million people (which represents close to 25 per cent of its population) are currently suffering from famine. Twenty per cent of its children are suffering from severe malnutrition, while hundreds have already starved to death.

The country often suffers from drought and locust plagues.

Despite the grave economic difficulties facing the country, my Government has demonstrated its commitment to meeting its financial obligations through the multi-year payment plan submitted in March 2004 and the two instalments already made.

You should recall that the General Assembly, aware of the fact that the non-payment of its contribution by my Government was due to conditions beyond its control, had previously decided to exempt my country from the application of Article 19, which we highly appreciate since it enables the Niger to preserve all its rights as a Member State, including the fundamental right to vote.

You may be certain that my Government will make all necessary payments as soon as possible to preserve this right.

I would be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly and considered under item 128, scale of assessments, during the main part of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

Let me express my appreciation for taking all measures necessary so that this request is duly considered by the Committee on Contributions.

(*Signed*) Aboubacar Ibrahim **Abani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative